

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

NO. LTC # 045-2011

LETTER TO COMMISSION

TO:

Mayor Matti Herrera Bower and Members of the City Commission

FROM:

Jorge M. Gonzalez, City Manager

DATE:

February 17, 2011

SUBJECT: Arrest - Recent Fires

The purpose of this LTC (Letter to Commission) is to report positive developments in the investigation of multiple fires which have taken place in the City in recent days.

I am pleased to report that a subject is in custody in relation to the fire last night at 1817 James Avenue and in relation to a fire earlier in the day at 926 Jefferson Avenue. The arrest was the result of enhanced surveillance in the Collins Park area due to the recent fires, as well as the ongoing investigation.

The Miami Beach Police Department found probable cause and credible evidence that resulted in the arrest of Joel Paul Williams, a 33-year old transient who arrived in the area on February 2, 2011.

The investigation remains open on this as well as the other 3 (three) structural fires that occurred over the past 8 (eight) days. However, this individual is also a person of interest in these other incidents, as well as the series of small dumpster fires that occurred on February 16, 2011. As a result, we are asking residents to report any suspicious behavior by calling 9-1-1.

I want to take this opportunity to thank the men and women of the Miami Beach Fire Department (MBFD) and Miami Beach Police Department (MBPD) who have demonstrated their professionalism and diligence as they responded to the recent incidents and the subsequent investigation.

I also want to extend our appreciation to the City of Miami Fire Department, the State Fire Marshal's Office, and the Department of Alcohol and Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) for their continuing assistance with these cases.

If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact me.

JMG/DM

F:\cmgr\\$ALL\LTC 2011\LTC Collins Park Fire Arrest.doc

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE